

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Simplified Practice

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OUR STANDARDS OR THEIRS?

Reports from other countries indicate increasing activity in the direction of standardization in mechanical, electrical and other lines. Progress has been marked in some of these countries, and especially so in the case of nations which are among our keenest competitors in foreign trade.

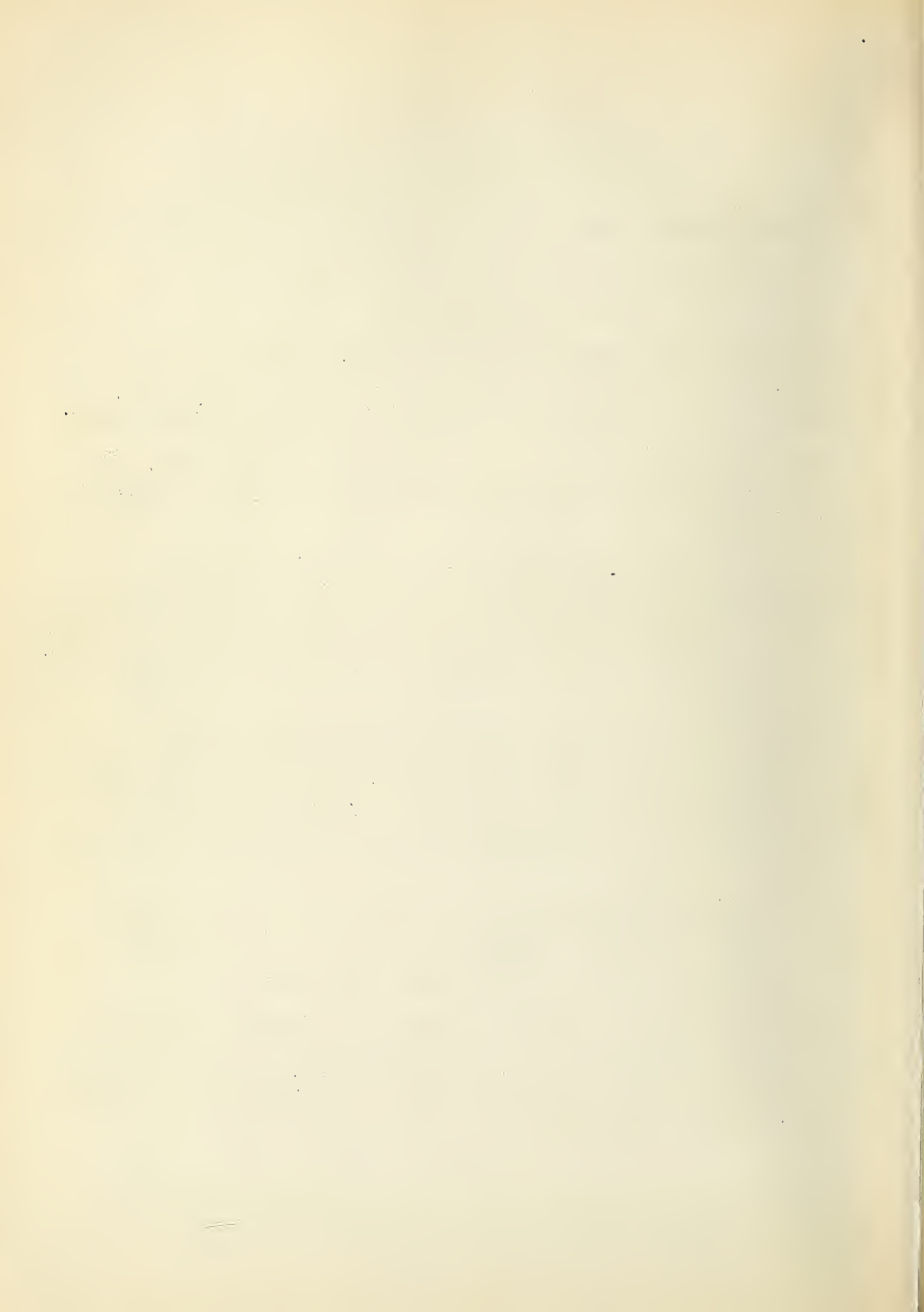
Along with the news of this trend, there comes an uneasy question to the minds of many American manufacturers: "Will we be able to determine our own future production, or will it be dictated by the practices of industries of other nations?"

The answer is up to the American producers and American technical organizations set up to carry on standardization work. Progress IS being made, but not as rapidly as it might be were every manufacturer, every trade association, and every engineering, scientific or business school to put their shoulders to the wheel. There is a crying need to "sell" the idea of standards and their advantages and to wage an intensive campaign in this direction.

One of the most important steps preliminary to standardization is Simplified Practice. It offers a short cut to benefits for the manufacturer, the distributor or the consumer. With cooperation by producer, distributor, user, and the technical and scientific bodies in weeding out the excessive, obsolete and unnecessary sizes, patterns and dimensional differences, a long step forward has been taken. One immediate result of such an achievement is to clear the decks for a more rapid and more comprehensive study of what shall be included in standards.

And meanwhile there are benefits to be derived by each group without having to await the results of such long-time studies which are essential to standardization - gains from a more effective utilization of production equipment, distribution machinery, and intelligent consumption.

Nearly 400 industrial groups are receiving the cooperative assistance of the Division of Simplified Practice in developing simplification programs which will weed out the superfluous. Forty have taken this step forward and are beginning to reap the benefits from the elimination of waste - benefits which amount to millions of dollars each year. Their answer to the question is: "Our Standards, not theirs."



Did you know that:

19 industrial countries have national standardizing bodies:

Germany has nearly 1,000 industrial standards, 60% of which deal with the machine industry, and the balance with civil and electrical engineering, automotive and locomotive industries?

Norway has joined Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Holland, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, Belgium and Sweden in adopting international paper sizes?

Poland has recently formed a standards committee which is working on 25 projects, among them simplification of electrical material, specification for boilers and cast-iron water pipes, and rules for bridge construction?

Sweden is considering standards of taper shanks for milling and drilling machines?

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When the National Supply & Machinery Distributor's Association asked its members to survey their plants and suggest the fields showing the greatest need for simplification, it "started Something". Already the surveys report the need for simplifying; bolts, machine screws, Swiss pattern files, cast iron and malleable fittings, auger bits, rules and tapes, pliers, screw drivers, socket wrenches, lock washers, steam gauges, radiator valves, oil and grease cups, abrasive materials, cotton and wool wastes, valves and fittings, link chain and attachments, die stocks and holders, cutters and reamers, lathe dogs, round adjustable dies, screw hooks and eyes, brick and plastering trowels, escutcheon pins, wood screws, tackle and snatch blocks for manila and wire rope. Work is under way for simplifying some of these fields.

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Plans have been made for a general conference to standardize sizes of tissue paper sheets. The meeting will be held October 8 in the Drake Hotel, Chicago.

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THE Dental equipment trade, interested in simplification, will have representatives at the conference on simplifying grinding wheels which will meet September 23rd in Washington to consider cutting 459,000 sizes and styles from its present stock varieties.

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Because of the wide range in sizes of carbon brushes for electric motors, requests for the Division's cooperation have resulted in a survey of diversity as a preliminary to a conference of producers.

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The Division is gathering figures as to the quantity of cans made in 1924 for the fruit and vegetable canning industry. The survey will be the basis for recommendations to be presented at the annual meeting of the National Cannery Association, for fewer size variations.

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Strengthening the hands of the Shovel Simplification Committee, the Southern Supply and Machinery Dealers Assn. members have shown a keen interest in handling fewer varieties of shovels.

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Ninety per cent of manufacturers of paris green, arsenate of lead and Bordeaux mixture, have agreed in principle to a tentative program of simplification of packing weights for insecticides and fungicides. A conference will be held October 20 to consider and act on the program.

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Charles A. Bissell, Interior Department Representative on the Federal Specifications Board, has notified the Chiefs of all bureaus and independent establishments in the Interior Department of the going into effect of simplified Practice Recommendation No. 36 on milling cutters, which has been issued by the Government Printing Office.

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More than 80% of the potteries, distributors, and hospital organizations of the country having accepted a simplification program for hospital chinaware, the Simplified Practice Recommendation will soon be in the hands of the printer. Important economics are forecasted by the hospitals.

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The Department of Economics of St. Ignatius' Higher School of Commerce, Antwerp, Belgium, has asked the Division for information as to its work, procedure and results, with a view to incorporating simplification in its courses of study.

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What Simplified Practice means to the worker, as well as the employer was discussed at the Y.M.C.A. Industrial conference at Silver Bay, New York, on August 29, after R. M. Hudson, Chief of the Division, had given an address on Simplification.

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"We are heartily in favor of your program and will even go to the extent of introducing a course of study, or of modifying a course which we already have, with a view to emphasizing this most important work", writes Dean J. A. Bexell of the School of Commerce, Oregon Agricultural College, placing that school among the ranks of those which are lining up to "sell" simplification as an important factor in modern business.

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Sam A. Lewisohn, president of the American Management Association, told that body, in its annual convention, that "There is a healthy demand for more and cheaper goods, stimulated by the higher standard of living which higher real wages have made possible", and he continued by saying "In order to meet this increasing demand for goods and for higher wages which is inherent in this process, we must perfect our management methods." Among the improvements in methods which he cited was "planning and controlling production process to eliminate wastes of labor and material". This is in line with what Secretary Hoover and the Division of Simplified Practice have been assisting industry in doing, and is another recognition of the value of Simplified Practice in making tomorrow's savings come from today's wastes.

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The New York State Builders' Supply Association is lining up with other associations to help spread the gospel that the distributor, by inducing purchasers to buy simplified lines, is not only giving the consumer better service, but is placing himself in the position of carrying more complete stocks of simplified lines than would be possible otherwise.

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Canadian brass manufacturing interests have undertaken to simplify nomenclature and other phases of the plumbing industry, as a result of the pace set in this country.

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